

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 23-44 were pending. Claims 23-44 were subjected to restriction and/or election requirement. By entry of the foregoing amendment, no claims were cancelled, claims 38-44 were amended, and no new claims were added. No new matter is presented.

Restriction

Restriction was required as follows:

- I. Claims 23-37, drawn to a device.
- II. Claims 38-44, drawn to a tool.

Applicants elect Group I with traverse. Traverse is on the grounds that the claims as amended would not present an undue burden as the amended claims are directed to a device rather than both a device and a tool. Applicants draw the examiner's attention to the amendments made to the claims 38-44. Claims 38-44 are further directed to the claimed device of claims 23-37, and are not in fact directed to a tool. Claims 23-44 are all directed to a claimed device. In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw the Restriction requirement.

Accordingly, if the requirement is withdrawn, claims 23-44 will be examined. If not withdrawn, claims 23-37 will be examined.

Election

Election was required as follows:

- I. Figures 1-3
- II. Figures 4 and 5

Applicants elect the invention of the species of Figures 1-3 with traverse. Traverse is on the grounds that examination of all the claims would not present an undue burden. Although distinct, the species are sufficiently related so as to be examinable together.

Claims 23-30 and 32-44 read upon the elected species. Claim 31 is the only claim specifically reading upon the invention of the species of Figures 4 and 5. Furthermore, Figures 4

and 5 merely illustrate variations of the elements shown in Figures 1-3. The screw shown in Figures 4 and 5 is utilized in exactly the same way as the screw shown in Figures 1-3. The slip-on collar 70 can be inserted into the groove because the diameter of the screw head and the width g_1 of the slip-on collar 70 are a bit smaller than the groove. For a positive fitting securing of the slip-on collar 70, the slip-on collar 70 has only to be turned by approximately 90°. Then, the screw may be tightened with a key just in the same manner as illustrated in Figure 2. The only difference between the screw of Figures 1-3 and screw of Figures 4 and 5 is that the key needs to have dents as small as necessary to fit in. These facts support Applicants' contention that there is a connection between the embodiments of Figures 1-3 and Figures 4-5 as the two screws are essentially the same in design (i.e., structurally), operation (i.e., functionally) and effect. Both screws are structurally similar as both screws may be disposed within the same claimed device. Both screws also operate in the same manner as both positively secure the same respective components together as recited in Applicants' claims and illustrated in Figures 1-3 and Figures 4 and 5. And, lastly, both screws impart the same effect which is to positively secure the same respective components together as mentioned above. For at least these reasons, Applicants contend the examination of all of the claims would not present an undue burden as the species are sufficiently related so as to be examinable together.

Accordingly, if the election requirement is withdrawn, claims 23-44 will be examined. If not withdrawn, claims 23-30 and 32-44 will be examined.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,
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